



Branching Out

April 2, 2010

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia. www.vanaturally.com/tree

TREE meetings:

April 13, 11 to 1 at Deltaville Maritime Museum.

www.deltavilleva.com/museumpark/default.aspx

Local Events:

Spring Break Programming at Belle Isle State Park

Belle Isle State Park will offer a variety of workshops, hikes, canoe trip, and other programs from March 30 through April 11. Highlights include a free nature photography workshop, Geocaching, a nighttime frog hike, and an Easter Egg Hunt. Details at www.virginiastateparks.gov Click on the Park Events tab and use the drop-down menu to find Belle Isle.

Living Shoreline Conference

April 9th & April 10th, Longwood University, Montross

Friday, April 9, 12 - 5:30 pm is for Shoreline Contractors and Project Designers. Saturday, April 10, 9 am - 12:30 pm is for Property Owners, Local Government, Wetlands Board Members and others.

Both will be held at Longwood University's Hull Spring Farm in Westmoreland County, VA and are being presented by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Both sessions will include classroom and field sessions with a visit to a Living Shorelines fringe marsh and sill on site. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch.

To Register; Mail check for \$15 to Longwood University's Hull Springs Farm, 645 Hull Springs Farm Road, Montross, VA. 22520. Registration forms and additional information are available at www.longwood.edu/hullspringsfarm/. Limited enrollment, sign up soon.

MWEE Capacity Building Workshop, April 17th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

Secondary teachers will participate in a one-day professional development and capacity building workshop to learn how to conduct their own Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEE's) for students at their schools. Activities will include how to plan a MWEE, site selection, pre- and post-trip activities, safety and organization, appropriate equipment, introduction to Chesapeake Bay flora and fauna, and environmentally responsible field trip practices.

Come learn more about how to implement your own MWEE at your school. Registration is limited to 15. For more information, contact Sarah McGuire at mcguire@vims.edu or 804-684-7878.

Virginia Museum of Natural History Field Trips

See <http://www.vmnh.net/index.cfm/topic/field-trip-adventures> for field trip events with the Virginia Museum of Natural History all over the state and mid-Atlantic region. Opportunities abound for joining them on fossil collecting trips all over the place! Many of these trips take place on and around the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas, as well as some exotic locations in Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina and Maryland.

Other Events:

Fundamentals of Environmental Education **Making EE Relevant to Diverse Audiences**

Full course descriptions and scholarship information available at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx>

All courses start June 1st. Registration deadline is May 18, 2010. Please email jtomasze@uwsp.edu to receive the registration form of your choice.

Scholarships are available! Please email Lesley Sheridan at lsherida@uwsp.edu for information on eligibility and an application.

Teacher Boot Camp June 27 – July 2, 2010 ~ Front Royal, Virginia

Application Deadline: April 15, 2010

Smithsonian's National Zoo is hosting a week-long workshop for K-6 teachers from all states. Using in-situ and ex-situ Zoo research as case studies, to build upon life science skills/techniques applied by scientists and science educators, and place them in a wildlife conservation context, the workshop will provide a set of tools and resources to use inside and outside the classroom. The workshop is conducted at DC's National Zoo and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia. Check the Web site for tuition, lodging, travel, and course credit information.

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Education/TeacherBootCam...>

Youth Conservation Camp Sponsored by Soil & Water Districts

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students (grades 9-12) on the campus of Virginia Tech for 30+ years. The program brings together about 90 interested students for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources by conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors. The 2010 Camp is July 12-18, 2009. [Applications](#) are available online and must be submitted to your local soil and water conservation district. Check with your local office for due

dates. Contact information for your local office can be found at [VASWCD's website](#). For further information please contact Beth Sokolik at Elizabeth.sokolik@vaswcd.org or (804) 559-0324.

Dear Community Leaders,

Each year professional development opportunities open to K-12 and community educators are promoted through Virginia Naturally. In the past we have listed one-day workshops as well as multi-day "institutes" such as the Chesapeake Bay Academies.

Would you please take time to submit training and workshop opportunities that are being sponsored by your organization from April to September? Just visit this short and easy survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TBQPL92>.

Please visit <http://www.vanaturally.com/summer.html> to see current listings. We expect to have additional opportunities published by April 1st.

Thank you for your continued support of high quality Environmental Education in Virginia and I look forward to promoting your workshop and training opportunities!

David Ruble, New Email - David.Ruble@deq.virginia.gov

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

FREE Earth Day Webinar (seminar on the web)

April 5th, 8pm, EDT

Join PBS producers and education experts for a webinar celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Participants will learn about two new projects from PBS: Earth Days, a film about the history of the modern environmental movement, and Growing Greener Schools, a project focused on incorporating green ideas into both school buildings and classroom curriculums. Presenters will preview both films and provide an overview of associated educational resources.

To register for this FREE webinar, register at Join PBS Teachers! at www.pbs.org/teachers/connect/create-profile/ and an invitation will be sent to you.

Here is a link to an information page with some background and statistics on 'green' schools.

<http://teacher.shop.pbs.org/family/index.jsp?categoryId=4065302&sr=1&origkw=4065302>

It's Springtime!

Celebrate Earth Day's 40th Anniversary & Virginia Naturally's 10th Anniversary!

This edition of Virginia Naturally contains many ideas for how you can celebrate the spring with stewardship activities!

Participate in Stewardship Virginia and receive recognition from Governor Bob McDonnell.

National Wildlife Week is March 15 - 21

National Environmental Education Week is April 11 - 17

Get involved in the Great American Cleanup

You'll also find information about new grants, programs and upcoming events to enjoy Virginia outdoors.

Here is the link to the newsletter:

http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/mar_april10_news.html

Special Earth Day Music - FREE!

Consider including the song, "Why Don't We Stand?" in some way for any events or Website this year, since Earth Hour, Earth Day, Earth Week and International Environment Day are fast approaching. The song is free, compliments of musician Pete Dowan

http://www.clearspring.com/widgets/4a37fac83c457251?p=4a381495a8801718&lv=widget_id%3D2966

Do You Know Your Organizational Culture?

The winter 2010 information installment on environmental education and diversity has been posted on the NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education) web site. In Articles of Interest (Winter 2010) environmental educators are encouraged to examine the culture of their organizations but suggest that this can be difficult. It explains that one strategy for gaining insight into the culture of your organization is listening to how others outside the organization react to your work. The article describes a situation in which environmental educators feel that they are teaching environmentally sustainable habits while others view it as teaching values and practicing %environmental religion+. Other segments of the installment examine how to become an impartial observer of your organizational culture, poses an organizational cultural dilemma, presents questions for consideration when thinking about developing relationships with communities, and gives an example of an organization that keeps culture in the forefront of its environmental teaching. To view this and previous installments visit:

<http://naaee.org/ee-and-cultural-diversity>

Audubon International's Free Webinars in 2010

To celebrate the mid-way point of the United Nation's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, throughout 2010 Audubon International will be hosting a series of free training Webinars designed to help people become better stewards of the environment where they live, work, and play. Webinars will focus on topics such as community sustainability, greening your business or property, eco-development practices, and community outreach ideas. Registration is free,

but space is limited.

<http://www.auduboninternational.org/webinars>

New Report

The State of the Birds - 2010 Report on Climate Change

Earlier this month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management released its *State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change*. This publication addresses one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Accelerated climate change as a result of human activities is altering the natural world as we know it, diminishing the quality of our environment. Climate change threatens to further imperil hundreds of species of migratory birds, already under stress from habitat loss, invasive species and other environmental threats. The report shows that climate changes will have an increasingly disruptive effect on bird species in all habitats, with oceanic and Hawaiian birds in greatest peril. This report follows a comprehensive report issue released a year ago showing that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline. Information can be easily translated by bird educators as we continue to build bird conservation through education.

The 32-page publication can be viewed and downloaded by [clicking here](#)

Tools with a Cost:

Online Environmental Education Classe

Fundamentals of Environmental Education

June 1 – August 20, 2010

Deadline: May 1, 2010

A 12-week online course about the fundamentals of environmental education is appropriate for both classroom teachers and for non-formal educators who work with students and/or teachers. Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. All students, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. The course is also offered at a reduced cost for those who are not interested in obtaining college credit.

Making EE Relevant for Culturally Diverse Audiences

June 1 – August 6, 2010

Deadline: May 1, 2010

This 10-week online course is designed to provide participants with the basic knowledge and skills needed to make EE relevant to culturally diverse audiences. Participants will broaden their perspective of EE to encompass interests and issues of concern to culturally diverse audiences, assess barriers to participation among these audiences, and apply cultural competency skills in building relationships and partnerships with members of an audience they intend

to work with in the future. Although there are no prerequisites for this course, a working understanding of environmental education is essential for success in this course. Participants may obtain two undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. It is also available as a non-credit workshop. All participants, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx>

2010 Film Catalog Released

The Video Project has been distributing independent films on environmental topics for over 25 years. Current films cover sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, species decline, pollution, resource protection and conservation, climate change, and more. All films are award-winning and many have appeared on PBS. Most of the Video Project films have robust companion Web sites and additional resources to expand learning opportunities. The new 2010 catalog is available online:

<http://www.videoproject.com>

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

Support for Environmental Organizations

Pre-Application Deadline: April 30, 2010

The Patagonia Environmental Grants Program provides support to small, grassroots activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to protect the environment.

([Full Details](#))

Forest Legacy Program

Pre-Application Deadline: May 22, 2010

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) assures that both traditional uses of private lands and the public benefits of America's forests are protected for future generations. ([Full Details](#))

Grants Encourage Forest Management Partnerships

Deadline: June 18, 2010

The Foundation's Collaboration Support Program provides grants to organizations working to proactively engage local stakeholders in forest management and conservation issues on and around National Forests and Grasslands. The program provides Capacity Grants of up to \$5,000 for organizational development needs in collaborative efforts. Innovation Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for expenses related to the implementation of new strategies that will move the field of collaboration forward and that have the potential to be transferred to other collaborative efforts across the country. ([Full details](#))

Jobs

The Sassafras RIVERKEEPER is a full-time Advocate/Scientist protecting and advocating for the Sassafras River watershed. SRA has just completed an EPA approved watershed action plan and has secured funding for outreach, monitoring and the development of a Sassafras River Report Card.

Interested candidates can review complete details at www.sassafrasriver.org/careeropportunities/ or the attached PDF. Application deadline is Friday, April 2.

Projects Coordinator

The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education (www.dickinson.edu/departments/cese) at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA is hiring a Projects Coordinator to lead projects that provide experience-based learning about sustainability through co-curricular programs, campus operations, student life, and community service. The Coordinator will initiate and manage projects that engage students in hands-on learning about sustainability, renewable energy, energy conservation and other 'green' technologies; support student initiated projects that promote sustainable behaviors; maintain our greenhouse gas inventory; coordinate review of our Climate Change Action Plan; keep financial records; and supervise student interns. To see the full job ad and to apply online, go to <https://jobs.dickinson.edu> and click the link to view "Administrative/Professional" positions. Applications are due April 12, 2010.

Project Manager - Dan River Basin Association

The Dan River Basin Association preserves and promotes the natural and cultural resources of the 3,300 square mile Dan River region through stewardship, recreation and education. DRBA envisions a region where residents and visitors enjoy a high quality of life and access for all to healthy waterways, natural areas, trails, greenways, and heritage sites, a bi-state network that contributes to a strong and vibrant regional economy. ([Full Description](#))

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net